

Volunteer Camp

Mahidol University International College

Ban Huay Hin Dum, Dan Chang, Suphanburi

December 17 – 26, 2009



Being part of the MUIC volunteer club, this was my second time joining this wonderful 10-day-long volunteer camp. I learned different new things through each camp. This second camp was another

brilliant experience that I have had. The school that we went to is located on the mountain in Dan Chang District of Suphanburi province. Majority of the students is from Karen tribal family which was the first thing surprised me because I perceived that the hill-tribal people usually live in the northern part of Thailand. In every morning, I and other camp participants joined the morning ceremony with the students – we sang, together with the kids, the National Anthem which I have not done since I left my high school. I also learned a little bit of Karen language from “One Day One Karen Word” section of the morning ceremony. “Lor-Chu-Loy-Chaai” is how to say hello in Karen. Furthermore, there are

about 120 students enrolled in this school and there are 7 teachers, one of them graduated from this school. The school only provides elementary to highest level of primary school – 6th grade.

The major tasks of this camp were to develop the school and community physically and potentially. All girl participants took over the classroom for 10 days. They taught the kids different subjects through indoor and outdoor activities that were unseen for those kids to make them happy have cheerful in class. Therefore, that is going to be another way to encourage the kids to pursue higher level of education than middle school in which most of the graduated kids there have because of poverty that their family is facing preventing them to continue their study.

Construction is another traditional assignment for Male volunteers. In this camp, we rebuilt the proper kitchen for the school to replace the unfinished and unconstructive one that they had and consequently, the kitchen moved to right in the undersized canteen. As we are not engineer students, we had a village constructor joined and helped guiding us to get the job done. It was such a big piece of homework that we had to finish during these ten days. It took a lot of effort and dedication among our crew. Some days we had to work until 9 or 10 at night trying to get the kitchen to be as nice as we can. Finally, we got it done on time. I was really proud of it when I looked at it before we left the school. I just couldn't believe that I, as a hotel-and-tourism majored student and all of my friends who are in business majors could actually pull out this piece of construction to donate to the school.

In conclusion, this camp and the donations, to the school, was a big Christmas and New Year gift that we went there and spent 10 days developing the school. In returns, the camp was a huge Christmas and New Year gift for me and other volunteers as well because all of those fantastic experiences that we had could never be found else where. It was really worth it to escape from the chaos city life in Bangkok to outer part of the city that you see not more than 10 cars in 10 days. You have no telephone signal from friends who want to ask you to go out, no shopping malls and no selfish people, none of craziness to bother you. It is a great way of cleaning your polluted brain.

Gallery



Eliminating the old walls of the unfinished kitchen to build new one which was the easiest part of the construction.

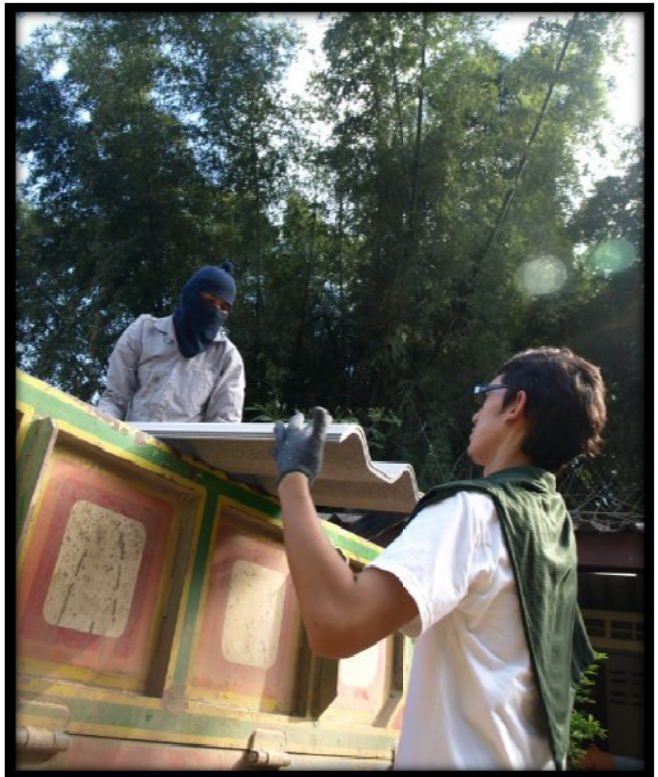
This was actually the difficult and timetaking job which was to build walls by joining bricks together.





It seems not that heavy but it was, in fact, extremely heavy. I do look like a real contractor with my T-shirt hoody.

Delivering the roof of the kitchen.





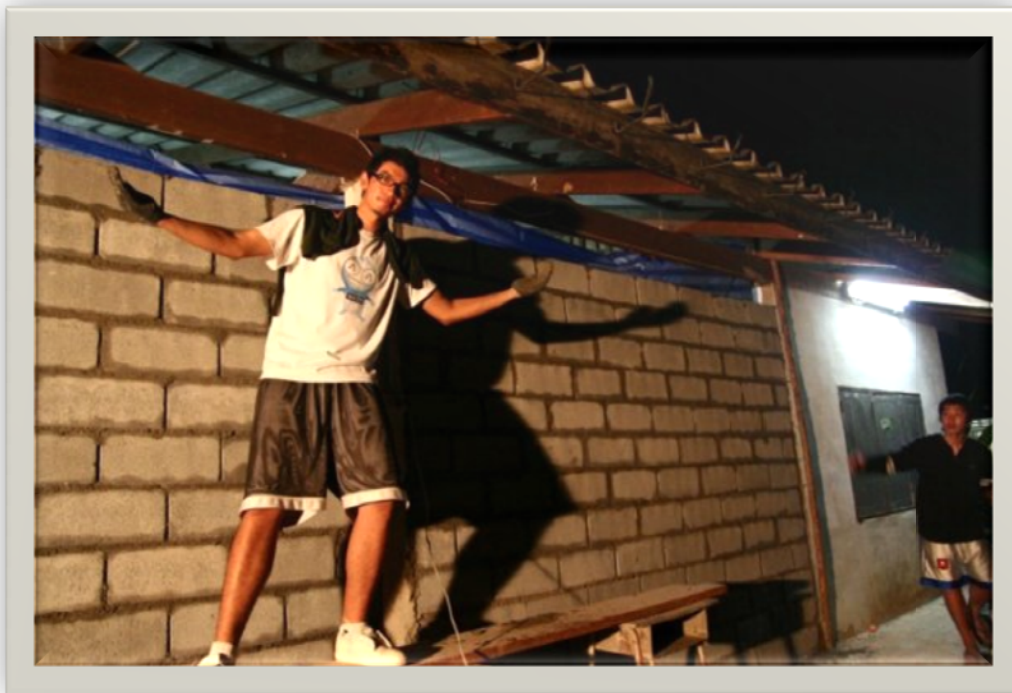
Cementing over the brick walls to make them as smooth as possible when.

We also contributed to the community there by building the small dams to decrease the intensity of the water flow coming down from the top of the mountain in the rainy season and to keep . This was another new experiences that I learned.





Farewell our village constructor, Uncle Wundee, who were such a great trainer for us.



My Master Piece